

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2003. The Office Action indicated that claims 46-48, 50, 51 and 57 are allowable. Claim 57 has been amended to be an independent claim, including the prior limitations of claim 28, from which it formerly depended. Claims 33-37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 33 has been amended to include the limitation of claims 28 and 32 from which it formerly depended, and claim 36 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 28 from which it formerly depended. Claims 28-32, 38-45, 49 and 52-56 have been canceled herein without prejudice.

No new matter is contained in the amendments. Based on the above amendments and the remarks below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections and rejections and allowance of remaining claims 33-37, 46-48, 50, 51 and 57.

The Office Action stated that newly submitted claims 53-56 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed, and thus have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 53-56 have been cancelled herein without prejudice.

The Office Action rejected claims 39, 40-42 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 39, 40-42 have been cancelled herein without prejudice, therefore, the rejection is rendered moot with respect to those claims. Because no specific reference was made to an objection in claim 50, while currently cancelled claim 52 was specifically referenced, and because claim 50 was also

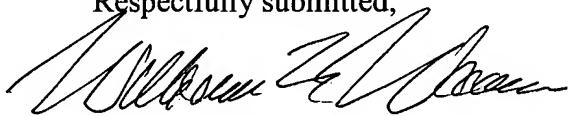
indicated as being allowed, the rejection is also considered moot with respect to pending claim 50.

The Office Action stated that claims 40-42 and 52 are not supported by the specification and thus are new matter. Claims 40-42 and 52 have been cancelled herein without prejudice, therefore, the rejection is rendered moot with respect to those claims.

Claims 28-32, 38, 39, 43-45 and 49 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Singer et al. Claims 28-32, 38, 39, 43-45 and 49 have been cancelled herein without prejudice, therefore, the rejection is rendered moot with respect to those claims.

It is believed that all objections and rejections have addressed and either have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests allowance of remaining claims 33-37, 46-48, 50, 51 and 57. If there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (404) 853-8081.

Respectfully submitted,



William L. Warren,
Reg. No. 36,714

SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP
999 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3996
(404) 853-8000
Our Docket: 18744-0004